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## 18. ADDITIONS TO 'THE BIRDS OF GOA' (LAINER 1999)

In 'The Birds of Goa' (Lainer 1999a, b), records up to July 1997 were incorporated. The present note includes all 'new sightings' made since then (up to July 12, 2001) and corrects two inadvertent omissions. All observations, if not attributed otherwise, are by the author. For easy reference and in continuance of the original paper, the number in brackets after the serial number refers to the 'Synopsis number' as used by Ali and Ripley (1995). The common and scientific names follow Manakadan and Pittie (2001). Unconfirmed records of birds that are difficult to identify in the field are appended.

## ADDITIONS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

383. (9) **Wedge-tailed Shearwater**  
*Puffinus pacificus* (Gmelin)

During one of my regular seabird watches, I observed a single pale morph specimen skimming low over the waves almost a kilometre off the coast of Anjuna (Bardez) on September 20, 1998. Another pale morph was spotted c. 300 m offshore in perfect viewing conditions on July 12, 2001. Both birds were moving purposefully in a southerly direction.

384. (73) **Greater Flamingo**  
*Phoenicopterus ruber* Linnaeus

Frost, Manville and the author observed a single bird in a saline lagoon on Divar (Tiswadi), a large island in the inland-estuary of the Mandovi river, on November 3 and 4, 2000.

385. (155/156) **Common Buzzard**  
*Buteo buteo* Linnaeus

Apparently a scarce, but regular winter visitor. There are dozens of records by reliable British, Dutch and Scandinavian bird watchers, in whose countries the Common Buzzard is a common sight. Pitt (1995) observed the first specimen at Baga (Bardez) in December 1994. I have seen single birds on three occasions in March and October, 1998. The Common

Buzzard seems to favour the coastal belt, though there are two records from the midland plateau region and one from the Western Ghats strip.

386. (171) **Lesser Spotted Eagle**  
*Aquila pomarina* Brehm

A near adult specimen of this raptor was seen in November and December 1998 in the Neura wetlands (Tiswadi). Six immature birds were recorded from wetlands of the North Goa coastal belt, in October and November 1999 by Frost and this author. There are numerous sightings of doubtful value by visiting British and Scandinavian birders, nearly all from the coastal belt.

387. (220) **Amur Falcon**  
*Falco amurensis* Radde

Earlier known as the Red-legged Falcon *F. vespertinus amurensis*, the first sighting was of an adult male specimen at the coastal Dona Paula plateau (Tiswadi), in November 1997 (Lynes 1999). Since then, males, females and juveniles have been recorded by various observers and this author at Terakol (Pernem), Baga, Saligao, Fort Aguada (Bardez); Chorao, Carambolim and Corlim (Tiswadi), every year between November 8 and December 3.

388. (313) **Small Buttonquail**  
*Turnix sylvatica* (Desfontaines)

On December 9, 1998, a single bird was observed foraging under bushes on a grassy, lateritic plateau between Arpora, Parra and Verla-Canca (Bardez), hardly 3 km from the coast (Frost pers. comm.).

389. (437) **Great Stone Plover**  
*Esacus recurvirostris* (Cuvier)

Two birds were seen by Frost, Manville and the author in flooded fallow paddy fields on Divar, on October 8, 1998 and a single bird on January 17, 2001 in a prawn farm on Chorao, both riverine islands in the inland-estuary of the Mandovi.

390. (415) **Rufous-necked Stint***Calidris ruficollis* (Pallas)

A single bird was spotted among c. 1000 waders, on Divar island (Tiswadi), on September 17, 1999 (Frost and Lainer, under prep.). This first sighting was confirmed when two birds with remnants of the breeding plumage were recorded on August 3, 2000, on the same mudflats and by the same observers. Further sightings of up to two birds on December 13, 2000, 17th January and 2nd February, 2001 at Shiroda (Ponda) and Divar suggest that this very easily overlooked species might be a more or less regular winter visitor.

391. (418) **Long-toed Stint***Calidris subminuta* (Middendorff)

British bird watchers reported that two birds were present in freshly ploughed, irrigated paddy fields next to the inland-estuary of Mandovi river, at Sta. Cruz (Tiswadi) for two weeks in mid-November 2000 (Holt pers. comm.). In the morning of November 24, 2000, I recorded two birds in the same locality, while Frost (pers. comm.) observed 7 specimens in the late afternoon. On December 13, 2000, a loose group of more than 8 birds was sighted in freshly ploughed paddy fields at Shiroda (Ponda). A specimen moulting into breeding plumage was seen in a saltpan in the inland-estuary of the Mandovi, between Panaji and Ribandar (Tiswadi) on April 29, 2000 by Frost and this author.

392. (459) **White-winged Black Tern***Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temminck)

One bird, moulting from adult summer to winter plumage, was sighted on Morjim beach (Pernem), on August 18, 1998. Up to 5 birds in various stages of moult and in first summer plumage frequented mudflats on Divar Island between mid-September and the first week of October. All records were by Frost, Manville and this author.

393. (459a) **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger* (Linn.)

A juvenile specimen was observed in the company of a White-winged Black Tern, two whiskered terns and a gull-billed tern on mudflats of Divar Island (Tiswadi) on September 13, 1999, and on mudflats in the estuary of the Chapora river (Bardez/Pernem), on October 15, 1999, by Frost and this author. The few previous records in India are either from inland waters or from the East Coast (Grimmett *et al.* 1998).

394. (581) **Lesser Cuckoo***Cuculus poliocephalus* Latham

This cuckoo, previously relegated to the Appendix as unconfirmed, was collected by Saha and Dasgupta

(1992) in the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, in September 1977. More recently, Frost, Manville and this author recorded a female or immature bird in the Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, on October 29, 1999.

395. (759) **Oriental Broad-billed Roller***Eurystomus orientalis* (Linnaeus)

On March 14, 2001, Frost (pers. comm.) with a small party of visiting British bird watchers observed two, possibly three, birds in semi-evergreen foothill forest in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary (Canacona).

396. (940) **Bay-backed Shrike***Lanius vittatus* Valenciennes

An immature bird, moulting into adult plumage, was seen on a wide cultivated forest clearing in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, in mid-October and mid-November 1998, by Frost and this author. There are 8 sightings by visiting bird watchers at Arambol, Morjim (Pernem); Anjuna-Vagator, Baga (Bardez) and Carambolim (Tiswadi), the earliest dating back to December 1995 (Welland 2000). All of these were in November, December and January.

397. (943) **Rufous-tailed Shrike***Lanius isabellinus* Hem. & Ehr.

Holt (1996) observed a first-winter bird of the subspecies *isabellinus* near Santa Cruz (Tiswadi) in December 1996. Since then a number of sightings of the same race have been reported by Frost (pers. comm.) and visiting birders, from Baga (Bardez), Chorao and Divar (Tiswadi), during early November to early February.

398. (1036) **White-bellied Treepie***Dendrocitta leucogastra* Gould

On April 20, 2001 a single specimen was spotted in very dense, but not tall evergreen forest, right on the eastern border of Goa towards Uttar Kanara (Karnataka), near the village of Kuveshi and above Dudhsagar waterfalls by Frost, Manville and this author.

399. (1748) **Tickell's Thrush***Turdus unicolor* (Tickell)

A male specimen was collected by Saha and Dasgupta (1992) in the Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, in February 1978.

400. (2044) **Red-headed Bunting***Emberiza bruniceps* Brandt

A single male was observed in the Neura wetlands (Tiswadi), in mid-December 1998 (Frost and Lainer,

under prep.).

ADDITIONS TO THE APPENDIX

8. (32) **Lesser Frigatebird**  
*Fregata ariel* (G.R. Gray)

One juvenile bird seen *c.* 1.5 km off the Anjuna (Bardez) coast, on September 18, 1998.

9. (412) **Red Knot**  
*Calidris canutus* (Linnaeus)

A single bird seen among Sanderlings *Calidris alba* and Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* on Morjim (Pernem) beach, on September 18, 1998.

December 18, 2001

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19. FURTHER CHELONIAN RECORDS FROM MIZORAM  
IN NORTHEASTERN INDIA

The turtles and tortoises of Mizoram State in northeastern India were virtually unknown till recently (Choudhury 2001, Pawar and Choudhury 2000). In these works, however, the Champhai district in eastern Mizoram was not covered. The district was formerly part of Aizawl district. The entire area is hilly; the highest peak is Lengteng (2,141 m above msl). A field trip was made in February 2001, during which two species were recorded which have been summarised below.

**Brown Hill or Asian Brown Tortoise**  
*Manouria emys* (Schlegel & Müller 1840)

Two preserved shells were seen and examined at Lamzawl village, 1,000 m above msl. Both were reportedly obtained from the top of Lengteng (around 2,000 m above msl) (23° 50' N, 93° 15' E) and their meat eaten. The measurements are given in Table 1.

Earlier records from Mizoram were from Phura and Sangau in Saiha district (Choudhury 2001), and Dampa and Ngengpui Sanctuaries (Pawar and Choudhury 2000), all in western and southern Mizoram. These were the first records from the entire eastern part, that too from higher elevations (Fig. 1). The plastron pattern of these two specimens resembled the subspecies *phayrei* as did the specimens in Pawar and Choudhury (2000). However, those examined in Choudhury (2001) were similar to *emys-phayrei*

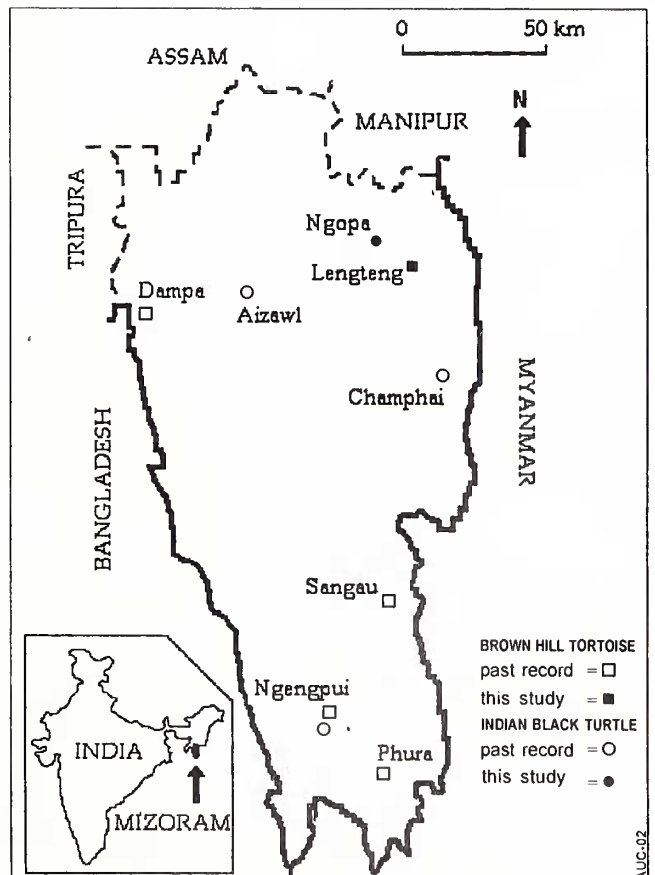


Fig. 1: Map of Mizoram showing the places mentioned in the text